



# NEWS RELEASE

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

February 9, 1996

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**STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO RECEIVE \$399 MILLION  
FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

State wildlife agencies will receive their share of the \$399.5 million collected from Federal excise taxes paid by anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters to support fish and wildlife restoration and recreation projects in 1996.

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will distribute the funds under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, helping to pay for thousands of wildlife conservation and recreation projects throughout the United States and its territories.

"Many Americans don't realize what an enormous contribution hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters make to conservation of our natural resources," Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said. "In fact, these individuals are among the Nation's foremost conservationists, contributing their time, money, and other resources to ensuring the future of wildlife and its habitat. Under the Federal Aid program alone, a total of more than \$5 billion in excise taxes has been generated to support state conservation programs."

Since the 1930s, Federal Aid excise taxes have been largely responsible for funding the recovery of popular species of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, wood ducks, and wild turkeys, and the restoration of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the funds have helped pay for hunter education programs, aquatic resource education programs, and boating access to rivers and lakes.

"These programs touch every man, woman, and child in the United States, making it possible for state wildlife agencies to undertake conservation efforts in communities across America," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "When you see a flock of geese or ducks in the autumn sky, Federal Aid is a big reason they are there."

A total of \$202.4 million will be apportioned to the states under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson program after its Congressional sponsors.

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This compares to \$211 million in 1995. The decrease is due primarily to larger-than-normal collections available last year from tighter enforcement and collection of back taxes.

The money is derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10-percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and an 11-percent tax on certain archery equipment. One-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment is made available for state hunter education programs.

Projects include acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat, introduction of wildlife into suitable habitat, research on wildlife problems, surveys and inventories of wildlife, acquisition and development of wildlife-related recreational facilities, and hunter education programs, including construction and operation of public shooting ranges.

Another \$197.1 million will be passed along under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, often called the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux program. This compares to \$199.9 million in FY 1995. The slight decrease is attributable to an increase in deductions based on the proposed passage of the Boating Safety Improvement Act.

This funding results from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders. The Wallop-Breaux legislation of 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the Federal motorboat fuels tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Projects funded under this program include acquisition and improvement of sport fish habitat; stocking of fish; research into fishery resource problems; surveys and inventories of sport fish populations; and acquisition and development of boat ramps, fishing piers, and other recreational facilities. Up to 10 percent of each state's apportionment may be used for aquatic resource education.

Distribution of sport fish restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of fishing license holders in each state. Wildlife restoration funds are made available based on land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state.

The attached tables show the allocation of the final apportionments for fiscal year 1996.

**FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH  
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996**

ALABAMA	2,969,527
ALASKA	9,856,845
ARIZONA	4,153,749
ARKANSAS	3,201,326
CALIFORNIA	9,856,845
COLORADO	5,011,592
CONNECTICUT	1,971,369
DELAWARE	1,971,369
FLORIDA	5,114,792
GEORGIA	3,646,275
HAWAII	1,971,369
IDAHO	3,446,744
ILLINOIS	4,055,769
INDIANA	3,042,441
IOWA	2,448,876
KANSAS	2,953,647
KENTUCKY	2,911,492
LOUISIANA	3,310,821
MAINE	1,971,369
MARYLAND	2,136,313
MASSACHUSETTS	1,971,369
MICHIGAN	7,363,431
MINNESOTA	7,173,921
MISSISSIPPI	2,654,818
MISSOURI	4,841,845
MONTANA	4,663,188
NEBRASKA	2,474,115
NEVADA	3,021,671
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,971,369
NEW JERSEY	1,971,369
NEW MEXICO	3,563,035
NEW YORK	5,041,753
NORTH CAROLINA	3,026,314
NORTH DAKOTA	1,971,369
OHIO	5,060,087
OKLAHOMA	3,993,858
OREGON	4,649,363
PENNSYLVANIA	5,179,881
RHODE ISLAND	1,971,369
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,462,448
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,381,205
TENNESSEE	4,130,647
TEXAS	9,856,845
UTAH	3,649,599
VERMONT	1,971,369
VIRGINIA	3,171,980
WASHINGTON	4,152,458
WEST VIRGINIA	1,971,369
WISCONSIN	6,376,523
WYOMING	3,188,811
PUERTO RICO	1,971,369
GUAM	657,123
VIRGIN ISLANDS	657,123
AMERICAN SAMOA	657,123
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	657,123
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	657,123
TOTAL	197,136,893

**FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE  
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996**

STATE	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	2,668,067	993,778	3,661,845
ALASKA	8,003,939	422,987	8,426,926
ARIZONA	3,762,009	901,457	4,663,466
ARKANSAS	2,887,459	422,987	3,310,446
CALIFORNIA	5,779,523	1,268,962	7,048,485
COLORADO	4,106,734	810,251	4,916,985
CONNECTICUT	800,394	808,461	1,608,855
DELAWARE	800,394	422,987	1,223,381
FLORIDA	2,412,198	1,268,962	3,681,160
GEORGIA	3,204,299	1,268,962	4,473,261
HAWAII	800,394	422,987	1,223,381
IDAHO	3,321,279	422,987	3,744,266
ILLINOIS	3,021,216	1,268,962	4,290,178
INDIANA	2,556,844	1,268,962	3,825,806
IOWA	2,563,930	682,939	3,246,869
KANSAS	3,020,879	422,987	3,443,866
KENTUCKY	2,458,263	906,393	3,364,656
LOUISIANA	2,523,619	1,037,896	3,561,515
MAINE	1,857,401	422,987	2,280,388
MARYLAND	1,003,718	1,175,995	2,179,713
MASSACHUSETTS	800,394	1,268,962	2,069,356
MICHIGAN	7,064,915	1,268,962	8,333,877
MINNESOTA	4,914,559	1,076,049	5,990,608
MISSISSIPPI	2,449,420	632,879	3,082,299
MISSOURI	3,941,684	1,258,537	5,200,221
MONTANA	5,034,941	422,987	5,457,928
NEBRASKA	2,783,542	422,987	3,206,529
NEVADA	3,031,044	422,987	3,454,031
NEW HAMPSHIRE	800,394	422,987	1,223,381
NEW JERSEY	800,394	1,268,962	2,069,356
NEW MEXICO	3,603,486	422,987	4,026,473
NEW YORK	4,957,286	1,268,962	6,226,248
NORTH CAROLINA	3,060,976	1,268,962	4,329,938
NORTH DAKOTA	2,316,268	422,987	2,739,255
OHIO	3,689,539	1,268,962	4,958,501
OKLAHOMA	3,152,883	773,652	3,926,535
OREGON	3,934,863	699,065	4,633,928
PENNSYLVANIA	6,846,535	1,268,962	8,115,497
RHODE ISLAND	800,394	422,987	1,223,381
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,843,229	857,549	2,700,778
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,864,615	422,987	3,287,602
TENNESSEE	3,996,576	1,199,536	5,196,112
TEXAS	8,003,939	1,268,962	9,272,901
UTAH	2,942,127	422,987	3,365,114
VERMONT	800,394	422,987	1,223,381
VIRGINIA	2,789,138	1,268,962	4,058,100
WASHINGTON	3,049,514	1,196,956	4,246,470
WEST VIRGINIA	2,010,766	422,987	2,433,753
WISCONSIN	5,248,726	1,203,123	6,451,849
WYOMING	3,126,098	422,987	3,549,085
PUERTO RICO	800,394	0	800,394
GUAM	266,798	70,498	337,296
VIRGIN ISLANDS	266,798	70,498	337,296
AMERICAN SAMOA	266,798	70,498	337,296
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	266,798	70,498	337,296
TOTAL	160,078,784	42,298,729	202,377,513